I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof

$$M\text{-}T\text{-}Y_A\text{-}NO_2$$

(I)

wherein:

M-T is the residue of M-TH or M-TOH,

wherein M-TH and M-TOH are COX-2 selective inhibitors selected from the group consisting of: 4-(5-methyl-3-phenylisoxazol-4-yl)benzenesulfonamide, 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide, 4-(4-cyclohexyl-2-methyloxazol-5-yl)-2-fluorobenzenesulfonamide, N-[6-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)thio]-2,3-dihydro-1-oxo-1H-inden-5-yl]-methanesulfonamide, N-(4-nitro-2-phenoxyphenyl) methanesulfonanilide, N-(4-nitro-2-cyclohexyloxyphenyl)methane sulfonanilide, 2-[(2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl)amino]-5-methylbenzeneacetic acid, 2-[(2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl)-amino]-4-methylbenzeneacetic acid, and (Z)-2-(4-methylsulphonylphenyl)-3-phenyl-2-buten-1,4-diol,

wherein T = $-SO_2NH-$, $-SO_2NR-$, -CO-, -O-, -S-, -NH-,$-N(SO_2R)-$, R being an alkyl with 1-10 carbon atoms, and

~~wherein the COX-1 inhibiting activity/COX-2 inhibiting activity ratio (IC_{50}) of the COX-2 selective inhibitor, M-TH or M-TOH, is greater than or equal to 5,~~

$Y_A = -(B)_{b0}-(T_C-Y)_{c0}-$ wherein:

b0 and c0 are the integers 1 or 0, with the proviso that b0 and c0 cannot be simultaneously 0,

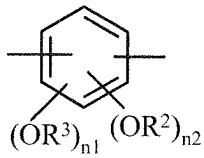
$B = -T_B-X_2-T_{BI}-$, in which:

T_B = CO or X, wherein X = O, S, NH, NR, and R is as defined above, T_B is CO when T is $-SO_2NH-$, $-SO_2NR-$, -O-, -S-, -NH-, or $-N(SO_2R)-$; and T_B is X when T is -CO-;

T_{BI} = CO or X, in which X is as defined above;

X_2 is a divalent radical and is selected from the following compounds:

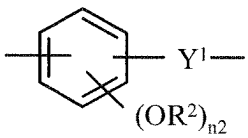
a)



wherein:

n1 and n2 are integers 0 or 1; $R^2$and R^3 are independently selected from H or CH_3;

b)

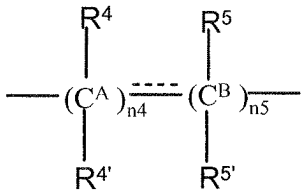


wherein:

n2 and R^2 are as above defined;

Y^1 is $-CH_2-CH_2-$ or $-CH=CH-(CH_2)_{n2'}-$ wherein n2' is an integer 0 or 1;

c)



wherein:

n4 is an integer from 1 to 20 and n5 is an integer from 0 to 20; R^4, $R^{4'}$, R^5 and $R^{5'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of_H, CH_3, OH, NH_2, $NHCOCH_3$, and_COOH; when the bond between the C^A and C^B carbons is a double bond, then R^4 and R^5 or $R^{4'}$ and $R^{5'}$ are absent;

T_C = CO, X wherein X is as defined above, or $-(CH_2)_{n6}OC(O)-$ wherein n6 is an integer from 1 to 20;

Y is a bivalent radical having the following meanings:

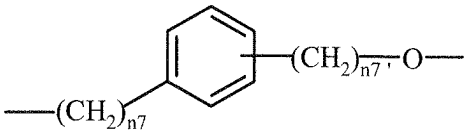
d) $-R^1O-$, in which R^1 is:

- straight or branched C_1-C_{20}-alkylene optionally containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur, or one or more groups -O(CO)-, -NH(CO)-,

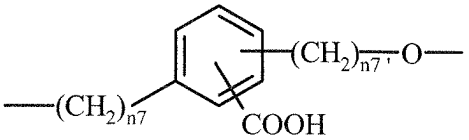
-S(CO)-, optionally substituted with one or more of the following groups –OH, -SH, -NH_2, -$NHCOR^6$, in which R^6 is straight or branched C_1-C_{10}-alkyl;

- cycloalkylene containing from 5 to 7 carbon atoms into cycloalkylene ring, wherein one or more carbon atoms can be replaced by heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur, and the ring can be substituted with side chains R^6, R^6 being as defined above;

e)

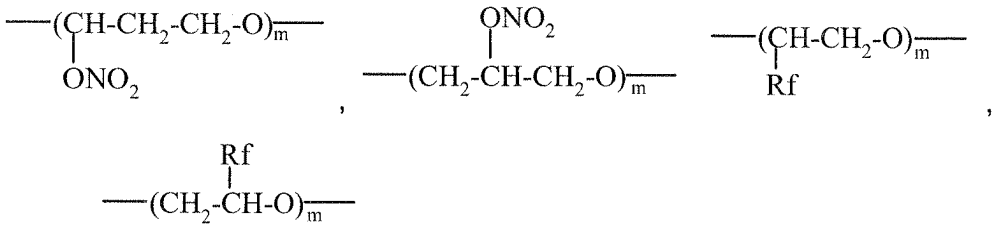


f)



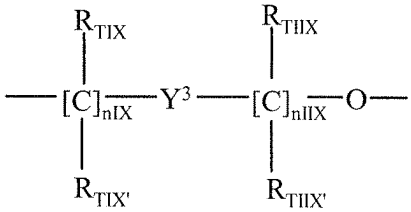
wherein n7 is an integer from 0 to 20, and n7' is an integer from 1 to 20;

g)



wherein m is an integer from 1 to 6, Rf is a hydrogen atom or CH_3;

h)



(IA)

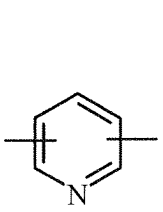
wherein:

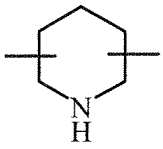
nIX is an integer from 0 to 10;

nIIX is an integer from 1 to 10;

R_{TIX}, $R_{TIX'}$, R_{TIIX}, $R_{TIIX'}$, are the same or different, and are H or straight or branched C_1-C_4-alkyl;

Y^3 is ~~an heterocyclic saturated, unsaturated or aromatic 5 or 6 members ring, containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulphur, and~~ selected from the group consisting of:


(Y1)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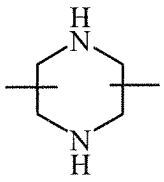
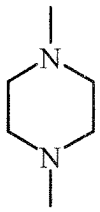
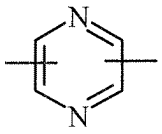
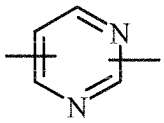
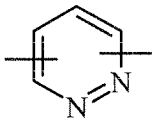
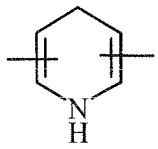

(Y3)

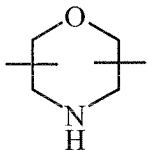

(Y4)


(Y5)


(Y6)


(Y7)


(Y8)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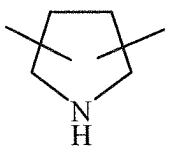
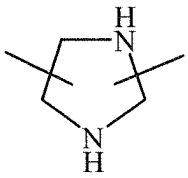
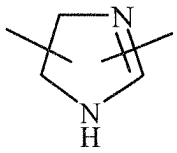
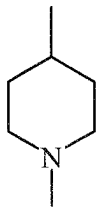

(Y10)


(Y11)


(Y12)

, and


(Y13)

;

with the proviso that:

when b0 = 0, c0 = 1 and T = -SO_2NH-, -SO_2NR-, -O-, -S-, -NH-, -N(SO_2R)- wherein R is as defined above, then T_C = (CO) or –$(CH_2)_{n6}O(CO)$-;

when b0 = 0, c0 = 1 and T = CO then T_C = X wherein X is as defined above;

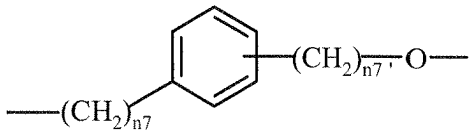
when b0 = 1 and T = -SO_2NH-, -SO_2NR-, -O-,-S-, -NH-, -N(SO_2R)- wherein R is as defined above, then T_B = CO;

when b0 = 1 and T = CO then T_B = X wherein X is as defined above;

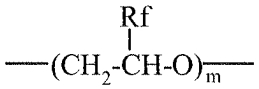
when b0 = 1, c0 = 1 and T_{B1} = CO then T_C = X wherein X is as above defined;

when b0 = 1, c0 = 1 and T_{B1} = X, wherein X is as above defined, then T_C = (CO); when b0 = 1, c0 = 0 the T_{B1} has only the meaning of –O–.

Claim 2. (Original) A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein b0 =0, c0 = 1, T and T_C are as defined in claim 1, Y is a straight C_1-C_6 alkylene or



wherein n7 is 0 or 1, and n7' is 1 or 2, or



wherein m is 2, Rf is hydrogen.

Claim 3. (Original) A compound of formula (I) according to claim 2 wherein b0 = 0, c0 = 1, T = -N(SO_2R)-, T_C = CO or –$(CH_2)_{n6}$O(CO)- wherein n_6 = 1 and R = CH_3.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) according to claim 2 wherein b0 = 0, c0 = 1, T = -SO_2NH- and T_c = CO or –$(CH_2)_{n6}$O(CO)- wherein n6 = 1.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Original) A compound according to claim 3, that is N-[6-(2,4-difluorophenylthio)-2,3-dihydro-1-oxo-1-inden-5-yl]-N-[(4-nitrooxy)butyroyloxymethyl] methanesulfonamide.

Claim 7. (Original) A compound according to claim 3, that is N-[6-(2,4-difluorophenylthio)-2,3-dihydro-1-oxo-1-inden-5-yl]-N-[3-(nitrooxymethyl)benzoyloxymethyl] methanesulfonamide.

Claim 8. (Original) A compound according to claim 3, that is (Z)-2-(4-methylsulphonylphenyl)-3-phenyl-2-buten-1,4-diol-1-[(4-nitrooxymetyl)-benzoate)].

Claim 9. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, that is N-[4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]phenylsulfonyl]-4-nitrooxybutanamide.

Claim 10. (Original) A compound according to claim 3, that is N-(3-nitrooxymethyl)benzoyloxymethyl-N-(2-phenoxy-4-nitrophenyl)methane-sulfonamide.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein said compound is a therapeutic agent.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory disorders, pain and fever, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the inflammatory disorders are selected from the group consisting of: arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, dysmenhorrea, allergic rhinitis, sinusitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, dermatitis, psoriasis, cystic fibrosis, multiple sclerosis, vasculitis and organ transplant rejection.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of cardiovascular diseases, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the cardiovascular diseases are selected from the group consisting of: atherosclerosis, restenosis, coronary artery disease, angina, diabetes mellitus, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy, stroke and myocardic infarct.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of gastrointestinal disorders, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein the gastrointestinal disorders are selected from the group consisting of: inflammatory intestinal disorders, Crohn's disease, gastritis, ulcerative colitis, peptic ulcer, haemorrhagic ulcer, gastric hyperacidity, dyspepsia, gastroparesis, Zollinger-Ellison's syndrome, bacterial infections, hypersecretory states associated with systemic mastocytosis or basophilic leukaemia and hyperhystaminemia.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of tumors and Alzheimer's disease, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A method of treating or preventing disorders resulting from elevated levels of COX-2, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A method of according to claim 19, wherein the disorders resulting from elevated levels of COX-2 are selected from the group consisting of:angiogenesis, arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, menstrual cramps, tendinitis, bursitis, neoplasia, ophthalmic diseases, pulmonary inflammations, central nervous system disorders, allergic rhinitis, atherosclerosis, endothelial disorders, organs and tissues preservation, and inhibition or prevention of platelet aggregation.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 22. (Original) A composition according to claim 21 in a suitable form for the oral, parenteral, rectal, topic and transdermic administration, by inhalation spray or aerosol or iontophoresis devices.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) A liquid or solid pharmaceutical composition for oral, parenteral, rectal, topic and transdermic administration or inhalation in the form of tablets, capsules and pills optionally with enteric coating, powders, granules, gels,

emulsions, solutions, suspensions, syrups, elixir, injectable forms, suppositories, in transdermal patches or liposomes, containing a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.